

Abstract of the Invention

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for the continuous manufacturing of optical memory or optical memory substrates, and/or optical disks, which includes supplying a web of material to a substrate forming apparatus, embossing a
5 microform image onto a polymeric film, such as an information track structure for an optical device, onto one or both sides of the web with a flat stamper and punching a hole through the web during the embossing. During the embossing, the polymeric material is heated to above the glass transition temperature (T_g). A flat stamper limits the potential for warp in the web, particularly when the web is stabilized in the stamp zone. The
10 disclosed invention is particularly useful in the production of optical disk substrates, such as polycarbonate, having a thickness of 0.6 mm or less.

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